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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 through 15 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add the following claims:

16. (New) A vacuum cleaner comprising a suction port body having a suction port, an electric blower for generating suction air, a connection pipe connected to the suction port body, and a cyclone type dust collecting part, disposed between the suction port body and the electric blower, for separating dust by forming the introduced suction air into a whirling stream and collecting the separated dust in a dust collecting chamber arranged in a suction air passage,

wherein a suction air guide is provided that comprises a cylindrical portion substantially cylindrical in shape which is fitted on a top portion of the dust collecting chamber and which has an exhaust portion formed so as to protrude from a center of a ceiling surface thereof into the dust collecting chamber, a connoting portion that is connected to the connectin pipe, and a flow-in portion that couples the cylindrical portion and the connecting portion together so as to permit dust to be introduced tangentially to the dust collecting chamber.

17. (New) A vacuum clenaer as claimed in claim 16,

wherein the exhaust portion is arranged substantially perpendicularly to the flow-in portion, and a filter is provided in an exhaust port formed in a peripheral surface of the exhaust portion.

18. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 16,

wherein the cyclone type dust collecting part is arranged substantially parallel to the connection pipe, and part of the connection pipe is bent so as to form a handle part that runs along a peripheral surface of the cyclone type dust collecting part with a gap secured in between that permits insertion of fingers of a user.

19. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 16,

wherein the electric blower and the cyclone type dust collecting part are so arranged as to communicate with each other through a flexible communicating pipe.

20. (New) A vacuum cleaner comprising a suction port body having a suction port, an electric blower for generating suction air, a connection pipe connected to the suction port body, and a cyclone type dust collecting part, disposed between the suction port body and the electric blower, for forming the suction air introduced through a flow-in port into a whirling stream so as to

separate dust and then discharging the suction air through an exhaust port,

wherein the cyclone type dust collecting part has a first dust collecting chamber and a second dust collecting chamber, both cylindrical in shape, for accommodating the separated dust, the first and second dust collecting chambers being arranged side by side along an axis thereof and separated from each other by a partition wall having an opening part formed therein.

21. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 20,

wherein a suction air guide is provided that comprises a cylindrical portion substantially cylindrical in shape which is fitted on a top portion of the first dust collecting chamber and which has an exhaust portion formed so as to protrude from a center of a ceiling surface thereof into the first dust collecting chamber, a connecting portion that is connected to the connection pipe, and a flow-in portion that couples the cylindrical portion and the connecting portion together so as to permit dust to be introduced tangentially to the first dust collecting chamber.

22. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the first dust collecting chamber is arranged within a suction air passage of the cyclone type dust collecting part, and the second dust collecting chamber is arranged outside the suction air passage of the cyclone type dust collecting part.

23. (Amended) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,  
wherein the first and second dust collecting chambers are  
arranged so as to be detachable from the cyclone type dust  
collecting part.

24. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,  
wherein at least part of the first and second dust  
collecting chambers is formed out of a transparent member that  
permits an inside to be viewed from outside.

25. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,  
wherein a valve for closing the flow-in port when the  
electric blower is at rest is provided.

26. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,  
wherein the exhaust portion is arranged substantially  
perpendicularly to the flow-in portion, and a filter is provided  
in the exhaust port formed in a peripheral surface of the exhaust  
portion.

27. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,  
wherein the exhaust port is provided in a cylindrical  
surface of an inner cylinder that is slidable inside an outer  
cylinder that is provided so as to protrude into the first dust  
collecting chamber, and, when the exhaust port is clogged, the

exhaust port is covered by the outer cylinder under a suction force of the electric blower.

28. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein a pressure sensor for detecting a pressure difference between in a suction air passage of the cyclone type dust collecting part and in an exhaust passage for the suction air exhausted through the exhaust port is provided.

29. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the cyclone type dust collecting part is arranged substantially parallel to the connection pipe and on a side of the connection pipe opposite to a floor surface, and the opening part is provided away from the connecting pipe.

30. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the cyclone type dust collecting part is arranged substantially parallel to the connecting pipe, and part of the connection pipe is bent so as to form a handle part to be held by a user during cleaning.

31. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the electric blower and the cyclone type dust collecting part are so arranged as to communicate with each other through a flexible communicating pipe.